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ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET. RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: Launching a major drive to obtain more basic information about the wildlife of the National Forests, the U. S. Forest Service this winter is sending several scores of men on a winter-long game survey in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region. The men are out to learn more about the habits of game animals, how they fare during the winter, what game populations can be carried on available food supplies, what the annual increase is, and what is the annual drain due to disease, starvation, predators, and hunting. More knowledge on these and many other problems is essential to proper management of the wildlife resources of the National Forests. The men will spend the winter in the remote back-country, far from civilization, and will gather data on these problems from first hand observation.

On the Pine Cone District a game survey also is to be made this winter and Ranger Jim Robbins has already had food and supplies stored in a cabin and made other preparations for the men who will spend the winter in the lonely, snow-covered wilds. Today, Glen Wilson, one of the Forest Service men who is to make the survey, is at the Pine Cone Ranger Station preparing to go into the back-country for his winter-long study of the wild game -- and now to the Ranger Station --

JIM: Well, Clem, I guess you've got about everything ready.

CLEM: I want to be doggone sure I ain't forgetting anything, Jim. Up there in the back country I can't be running in every time I need something, you know.

JIM: That's right. We'd better check over pretty carefully -- I think you'll find everything in tip-top order up at the cabin, Clem. I had a couple of the boys go up there and fix things up and tote in all the grub and supplies for the winter.

CLEM: Fine. It's a cozy little cabin, too, as I remember it.

JIM: Yep. Nice little cabin. I think you'll make out pretty comfortable. I was hoping I'd be able to get up there with you for a few days later on this winter, but now with Jerry away, I'm not so sure I can make it. It sure keeps me lumping since that boy left. I never realized what a big help he was on this District.

CLEM: I know it. He's got the makings of a mighty fine ranger, -- that boy.

JIM: Yep. -- Anyway, I'm going up there with you today, Clem. I want to go over some of the ground with you a little bit -- it'll help you in getting the game heads located.

CLEM: That'll sure be a help, Jim.

JIM: I think we can make it in there with the horses all right. Snow might be drifted a little deep in spots, but there hasn't been a very heavy fall up there so far.

BESE: (OFF) Oh, Jim --

JIM: Yes, Besse -- ?

BESE: (COMING UP) How soon will you be leaving, Jim?

JIM: Pretty quick now, Bess. Soon as we check over Clem's stuff and
more and get the pack horse loaded. I'm going to let Clem ride
Spark in and then I'll bring the horses back out again.

BESS: Spark is Jerry's horse, Mr. Wilson. Jim is keeping him for Jerry.

CLEM: Yes, I know.

BESS: Won't you be awfully lonesome up there all winter, Mr. Wilson?

CLEM: Oh, I reckon I'll make out all right, Mrs. Robbins. It's only
about fifty miles from civilization.

BESS: But fifty miles is an awfully long way when the snow gets deep
and you can't travel except on foot.

CLEM: Well, I'll have plenty to do, locating and checking up on all the
game herds. We've got a lot of dope to get on the game for this
Forest - how many there are, you know, and how they're getting
through the winter, how bad diseases are affecting 'em, and all
that. We need more dope like that to work out the right kind of
management plans to maintain the game on this Forest.

BESS: Yes, I know.

CLEM: And besides, I won't be entirely alone up there - Bill McCracken
is coming in from the other side in a couple of days, and he'll
be working out of the Running Creek cabin.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Sure. Just like a next door neighbor. Running Creek
cabin's only 30 miles away.

CLEM: Well, we'll be connecting up and working together some of the time
at that.

JIM: Pop - Well, we'd better be getting loaded up, Clem. We've got a
long trek ahead of us.

BESS: How long will you be gone, Jim?

JIM: About four days, I reckon, Bess. We'll probably bed down at one of the trail shelters tonight, and make it in the cabin tomorrow.

(INTERVAL - MUSIC)

(SOUND OF HORSES ON TRAIL)

JIM: (CLUCKS) Come, Dolly - we're almost there, old girl.

CLEM: I'll sure be glad to see that cabin, Jim. She's been a long-cold ride.

JIM: Yep. That cabin'll look pretty good, Clem. I've had 'er all stocked up with grub to last through the winter, and the boys fixed 'er up tight so she'll be snug and warm no matter how much you get snowed in.

CLEM: Well, she'll look pretty good to me right now.

JIM: All right, have a look. There she is, Clem. See 'er -- through the trees, there?

CLEM: Yep. Sure enough. Well, we made pretty good time, at that.

JIM: Yep. - Come on, Dolly.

(PAUSE)

JIM: Whoo, Dolly. Here we are, old girl.

CLEM: Hold it, Spark.

(HORSES STOP)

JIM: (GRUNTS, DISMOUNTING) Well, Dolly, I reckon a little bag of oats might look pretty good to you about now, eh? -- Would it? All right, old girl.

CLEM: Hey, Jim - look here!

JIM: Huh?

OLEM: Look there, Jim. The window.

JIM: Hmm. Broken in, ain't it? Somebody's broken into the cabin, all right.

OLEM: They sure did. Wonder if they stole anything.

JIM: We'll find out, pronto. Lemme get the door unlocked, here.
(SOUND OF OPENING DOOR) Yep - they rifled the place all right. Stole a lot of stuff. -- See here? Busted open these boxes of canned goods. Looks like there's a couple of blankets missing, too.

OLEM: Gosh, Jim, that's bad business, way up here in the back country.

JIM: It sure is. Theft of government property is bad enough business any time, but there's more than the value of the supplies at stake here. Our winter game patrolmen are dependent on these supplies, and if they get snowed in up here without 'em, it'd be a pretty serious matter.

OLEM: I'll say it would. It's bad enough as it is, Jim. There's enough stuff left here to last awhile, I guess, but I've got to have more supplies to get through the winter, and if a storm comes up, the trail's liable to be snowed up any day now.

JIM: Well, we'll get more supplies up to you, Olem, even if we have to rawhide 'em up or bring 'em in on our backs. -- Hmm. Looks like it didn't happen very long ago, Olem - here's mud on the sill here - still wet.

OLEM: Yeah. And there's tracks out there in that patch of snow, Jim. Look pretty fresh.

JIM: Yep. Looks to me like somebody broke in here within the last couple of hours.

CLEM: Who do you s'pose did it?

JIM: I've got a pretty good hunch, Clem. I've had a suspicion that somebody was up in here poaching on our elk - that's one of the reasons I wanted to come up here with you now - to see if by some chance I might run onto him.

CLEM: So it's a poacher that busted in here, eh? I sure wish we could run onto him.

JIM: Yep. -- Clem, suppose you take care of the horses, and then start getting some supper ready.

CLEM: All right. What you gonna do?

JIM: I'm going after the man that busted into this cabin.

CLEM: Think you can trail 'im?

JIM: I don't know, but if I can't, I know the most likely place a man would make camp around here, and I'm going there. -- And say, Clem --

CLEM: Yeah?

JIM: While you're fixin' supper, better fix up enough for three -- I've got a hunch, I'll be coming back with a prisoner for our guest tonight.

(INTERVAL - MUSIC)

(SHORT INTERVAL OF SILENCE)

JIM: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Hello, there, Cheets.

CHEETS: Huh! Whozat? - Whozat?

JIM: Weren't expecting any visitors, huh, Cheets?

CHEETS: Jumpin' crickets, it's the Ranger. You sure give me a scare.

JIM: What you so jumpy about, Cheets?

CHEETS: I didn't hear yuh comin'.

JIM: Oh, I see - Nice cheery little fire you've got, Cheets. I thought you might be making camp here.

CHEETS: Yuh did, huh?

JIM: Yep.

CHEETS: What you doin' up in this part of the country?

JIM: Oh, just lookin' around.

CHEETS: Yeah?

JIM: Yep - What are you doing up here, by the way? You work as a ~~guide~~ for hunting and packing parties sometimes, don't you?

CHEETS: Yeah.

JIM: No guide business to bring you up here this time of year.

CHEETS: Maybe not.

JIM: You don't need to tell me what you're doing up here, Cheets. I know you've been poaching on our elk.

CHEETS: You won't find no elk meat in this camp.

JIM: No, I s'pect not. Just the same, I'm sort of curious to know what's in that pack-sack of yours, there.

CHEETS: Ain't no elk meet in there.

JIM: No? Well, I'm kinda curious to know what is is there.

CHEETS: None of your business, what's in my pack-sack.

JIM: No? Well, I guess I can't get any evidence on you for possession of Cheats, - but I was just thinkin' -- if somebody bumped into that pack-sack - accidental like -- and it fell over - maybe some Government supplies might fall out and - (SHARPLY) Watch your mind looking for your gun, Cheats. I've got my foot on it.

CHEATS: Take yer foot off'n that gun.

JIM: Maybe I better hold onto it awhile, Cheats, 'cause I haven't got any gun of my own with me. -- Ham. Looks like a Government blanket you've got there, too.

CHEATS: Yeah?

JIM: Yap. -- Say. Cheats, have you had your supper yet?

CHEATS: No.

JIM: That's nice, isn't it? I'm inviting you over to the cabin to have supper with me and my pardner, Cheats.

CHEATS: I don't want none of yer supper.

JIM: That's too bad. 'cause you're coming anyhow. I'm placing you under arrest, Cheats, for theft of government property. And we're taking along this pack-sack full of Forest Service supplies as evidence --

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, Ranger Jim got his man. But the story isn't over yet. Because a prisoner on your hands out in the wilds, fifty miles from civilization, is another problem again, and we're wondering how Jim will make out in bringing his man to the authorities.

Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be with us again next Friday.

This program is presented by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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